

# The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

January 1991

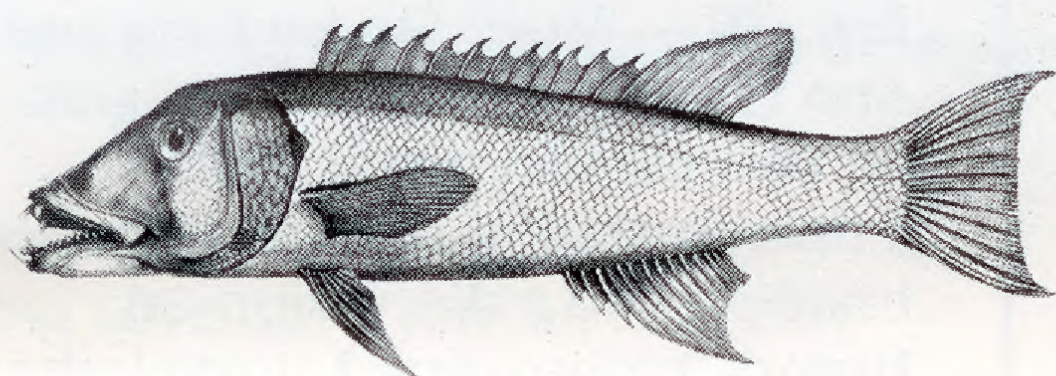


## Members' Meetings

### "Galapagos: The World Darwin Never Saw"

Wednesday, January 9, 2 & 7:30

Thursday, January 10, 7:30



*Semicossyphus darwini* n. sp. nov.



*The Galapagos sheephead, Semicossyphus darwini, named in honor of the collector, Charles Darwin, and illustrated here with the drawing which accompanied the original description and a recent photo.*

More than a century and a half ago, a young naturalist named Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands. Like many of his modern counterparts in marine biology, he suffered from mal de mer, and was overjoyed at the sight of land. Being a curious British naturalist, he dropped a line overboard to sample the strange fishes. The 15 specimens he returned to England were all new species, and since that time the Academy has carried on his ichthyological pursuits.

The Galapagos are now much better known and serve as a model for understanding the evolution of marine shore species. Dr. John McCosker, Director of the Academy's Steinhart Aquarium, has carried out extensive studies of

the fishes of the Galapagos and nearby locales. In the January Members' Meetings, he will explain in his slide illustrated lecture the discoveries made by recent expeditions. Only in Galapagos can one see a penguin swim side-by-side with a tropical reef shark, an iguana feeding underwater, or the curious harlequin-colored wrasses that seem to defy imagination. Dr. McCosker will explain the unique oceanographic conditions which allow marine organisms to evolve to become new species on off-shore islands. Those who have been or are planning a trip to Galapagos will gain some insight into the world that Darwin never saw. Next month's Members' Meetings will be February 13 and 14.

## Exhibits

### "Western Wildflowers Rediscovered: Watercolors by August Henry Kramer"

through February 24th



*Botanical watercolor  
by August Henry Kramer.*

August Henry Kramer spent most of his adult life in the mountains of California and Oregon. As a fire lookout for the U.S. Forest Service, "Gus" scanned the mountain sides for early signs of fire. But his eyes also sought the beautiful life that flourished on the forest floor. He searched for, and documented, the diverse plant life which he then later painted in exquisite detail. The botanical paintings of August Kramer span more than 25 years, from 1913 through 1938.

During this time, Kramer became acquainted with the Academy's then Curator of Botany, Miss Alice Eastwood and her assistant, John Thomas Howell (now Curator Emeritus of Botany). Both botanists helped him to identify the plants in his paintings.

Kramer's beautiful botanical watercolors are now on display in the Academy's African Annex. Accompanying these fresh and delicate paintings are letters from the artist to Alice Eastwood and herbarium specimens. This exhibit will be open until February 24th.



## Lecture "Women In High Places"

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 pm



Arlene Blum, co-author of *Women in High Places*, trekking in the Himalaya.

In 1978, a team of ten women led by Arlene Blum made the first American ascent of Annapurna (26,500 feet), the world's tenth highest peak. In this lecture and book-signing, Arlene Blum will portray the physical, psychological and organizational challenges she overcame in putting together the expedition, leading the climb through storms and avalanches to the triumph of the summit, and dealing with the tragic deaths of two of her team members. She will present her experiences within the context of 180 years

of climbing and exploration by women as described in her new book, *Women in High Places*, co-authored with Sallie Greenwood.

This slide show/lecture will start at 7:30 pm and will be followed by a book-signing with the author. The Academy Store will be open both before and after the presentation, and Arlene Blum's book will be for sale. Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Please use the order form below to purchase your tickets. For more information call 750-7128.

### Ticket Order Form

#### "Women in High Places"—Jan. 29, 7:30 pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lecture only:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3 member tickets

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 guest tickets

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:  
The Special Programs Office  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

No refunds/No exchanges

## Traditional Arts

Journey around the world with the Academy's Traditional Arts Programs every Saturday at 1 pm. These programs, presented in Wattis Hall or Morrison Auditorium, are endowed by a gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation and are free after general admission. Call 750-7142 for more info.

Jan. 5 — No program.

Jan. 12 — Storyteller Grady Zimmerman entertains us with Arkansas regional tales, mostly from the Ozark Mountains, which reflect local customs and beliefs. Some stories are personal anecdotes from his childhood and others include traditional tales of ghosts and witchcraft.

Jan. 19 — Muey Sio Saefong and Ann Goldman present a program on two Laotian textile arts — a demonstration of Mien finger braiding and a discussion on Hmong embroidered storycloths (pictorial panels illustrating the way of life in hill tribe villages.)

Jan. 26 — Yasuko Sakaguchi and her daughter Judy, show us how to make Japanese *bina ningyo* — small ceremonial dolls made for the annual Hina Matsuri festival for girls, and also given as gifts by grandmothers to their first granddaughters. The dolls are made from small wooden beads and a selection of origami and rice papers, and depict characters from Japanese folklore.

## Academy Annual Report Available

The 1989–1990 Annual Report for the Academy is now available. To order your copy, please write "Annual Report," Membership Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

## Academy Travel



Dr. David Kavanaugh

Explore the vistas of Alaska on an Academy Expedition.

Start your new year with plans for big adventure! Join an Academy Expedition and journey into the far corners of the world, guided by Academy lecturers who illuminate the wonders of the natural world.

### THE NATIONAL PARKS OF COSTA RICA

(Jan. 24–Feb. 9)

Lecturer: Dr. Frank Almeda

### PATAGONIA, CAPE HORN & THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

(Feb. 28–March 13)

Lecturer: Dr. Kathy Ann Miller

### THE ISLAND WORLD OF INDONESIA

(March 12–27)

### SPRING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

(May 18–27)

### RUSSIA: TWO WEEKS OF ZOOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

(May 20–June 2)

### BIRDING IN NORTHERN SCOTLAND, THE SHETLANDS & THE ORKNEYS

(May 24–June 9)

Lecturer: Dr. Robert Drewes

### EXPLORING THE PYRENEES AND NORTHERN SPAIN

(June 15–July 3)

Lecturer: Dr. Frank Almeda

### ALASKA'S COASTAL WILDERNESS

(August 11–19)

Lecturer: Dr. David Kavanaugh

### A NOMADIC JOURNEY: SIBERIA AND MONGOLIA

(August 7–29)

Lecturer: Dr. Jacques Gauthier

### A KENYA SAFARI

(August 14–29)

### THE ENCHANTED GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

(August 31–Sept. 18)

Lecturers: Drs. Robert Drewes and Tom Daniel

### MEXICO'S COPPER CANYON

(October 26–November 2)

Lecturer: Dr. Linda Cordell

### YUCATAN: LAND OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

(November 8–21)

Lecturer: Dr. John Carlson

### ISLANDS AND RAINFORESTS: ARUBA TO BELIZE

(December 19–January 2)

For more information, call the Academy's Travel Department at (415) 750-7222.

## They Ran to the Far Side



First place Far Side Costume Contest winner, Bob Ting.

Charlotte Florito, CAS

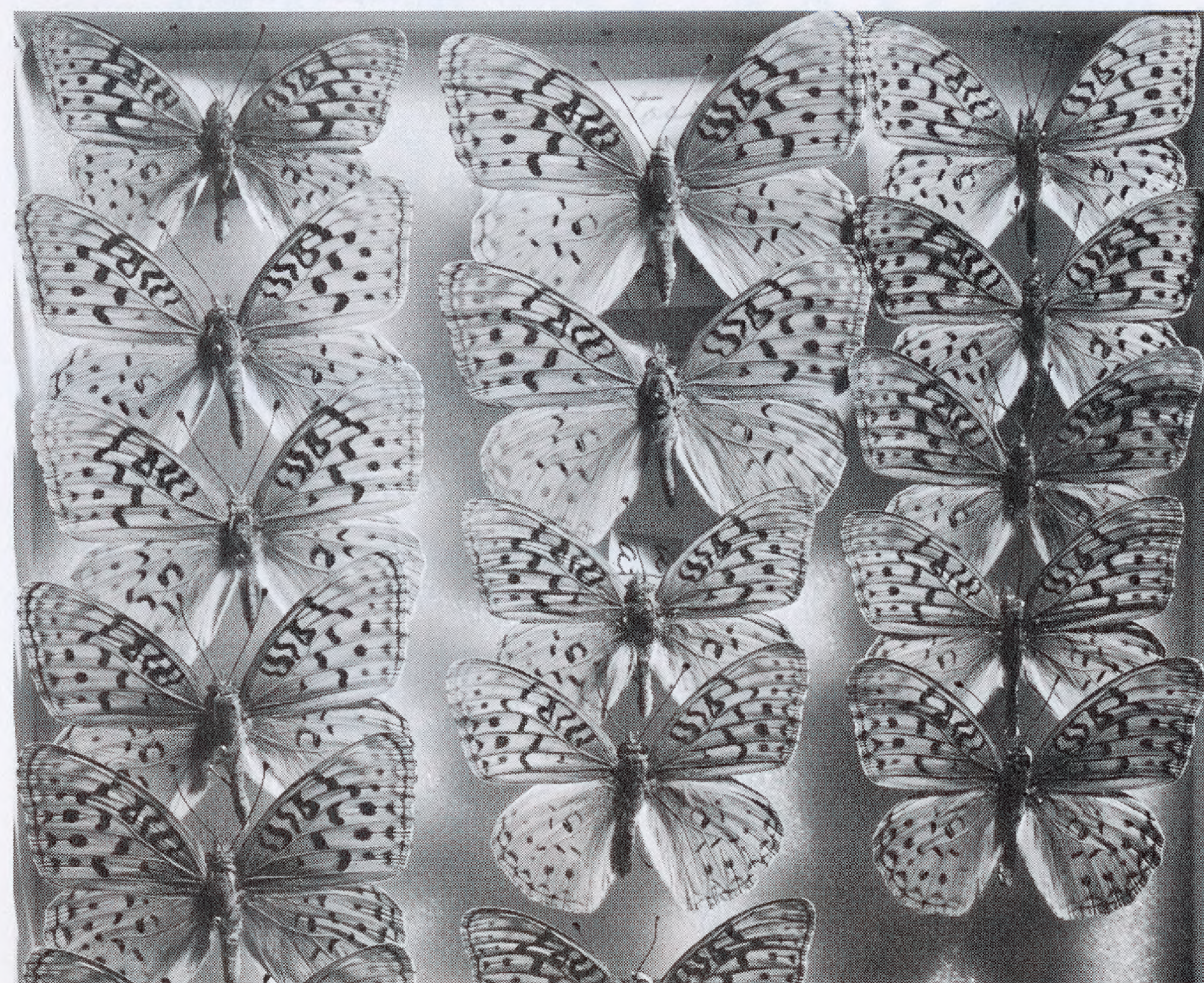
On Sunday, November 25th, 1990, the Academy hosted the sixth annual Run to the Far Side. More than 11,500 runners came from 34 states and six foreign countries, many dressed as their favorite Gary Larson cartoon characters. The first place male and female 10K winners received a new Geo car or truck of their choice, complements of this year's presenting sponsor. Pat Porter won in the men's division with a new course record of 29:16, and Laura Lamena took two minutes off the women's record with a time of 33:24. Thanks to all of the Academy members who came out and ran or volunteered to help out at this annual event. Proceeds from the Run support the ongoing environmental and educational programs of the Academy.

## Young Audiences Sunday, January 27, 1 pm

One Sunday each month in the Academy's Morrison Auditorium, Young Audiences presents a wonderful series of performing arts programs for children. This month enjoy the ethnic dances of Lily Cai. You can experience the unique differences of China's regional cultures through her captivating costumes and dances. This program is free after general admission and is made possible through the McKesson Foundation and Grants for the Arts.



## Adult Education



Susan Middleton, CAS

*Speyeria adiastrata*, once a common butterfly of the Tejon and San Jacinto mountains, has not appeared in these regions since 1959. Presumed extinct.

Adult Education's new Spring 1991 Calendar of courses and study tours should be arriving in your mailbox soon. Along with the introduction of special family field

trips, there will be an outstanding array of exciting new educational opportunities, including a two evening course, "Species Lost."

### SPECIES LOST

Scientists at the Academy are discovering and recording new species of plants and animals even as they disappear. This documentation is helping people around the world in their fight to preserve land from habitat destruction. Using the Academy's collection as a focus, six researchers will share their ideas about past, present, and potential future causes of extinction. We will look at the importance of biological diversity and the implications of its reduction. Jerry Kay will be facilitating the discussion. Hopefully, all is not lost!

February 6 and 13

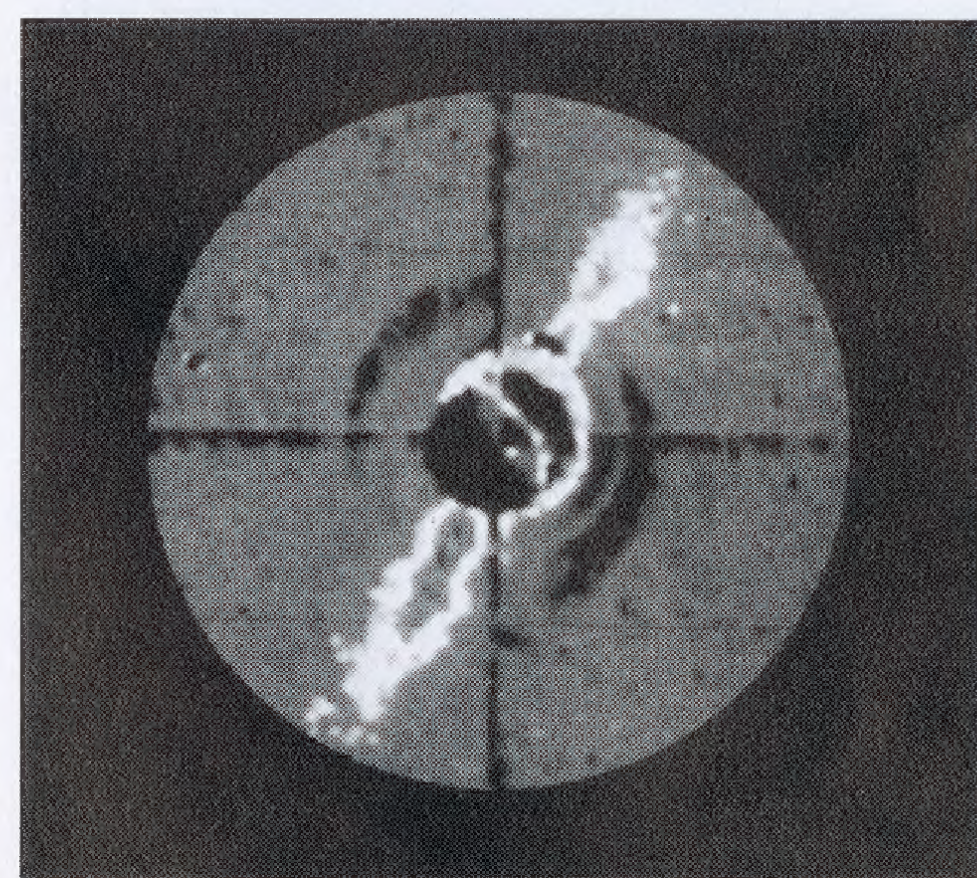
(2 Wednesdays) 7-9 pm

Instructors: Dr. Dennis Breedlove, Botany; Dr. William Eschmeyer, Ichthyology; Dr. Norman Penny, Entomology; Jens Vindum, Herpetology; Dr. Ken Warheit, Ornithology; and Dr. Marc Webber, Mammology.

Cost: \$25 members/\$30 non-members

Pre-registration is recommended for all courses as many of them fill quickly. Call the Adult Education Office at 750-7100 for more information.

## Lecture Series "Exploring The Universe"



A ring of material around the star Beta Pictoris may be a region where planets are forming.

On January 15th, Morrison Planetarium's "Exploring the Universe" series starts the spring season with Dr. Frank Shu, Professor of Astronomy at UC Berkeley, discussing "The Formation of Planetary Systems." Throughout history, philosophers and scientists have speculated on the origin of the solar system and the possibility of other worlds. Recent astronomical studies indicate that the formation of solar systems may represent fairly common events in the cosmos. Come listen to Dr. Shu discuss how the next decade may unveil systems of planets around stars other than the Sun. Other programs in this series are:

**Feb. 12** "The Birth of the Stars"

**March 19** "Views of Venus (and Earth) from Galileo"

**April 16** "COBE: Observing the Early Universe"

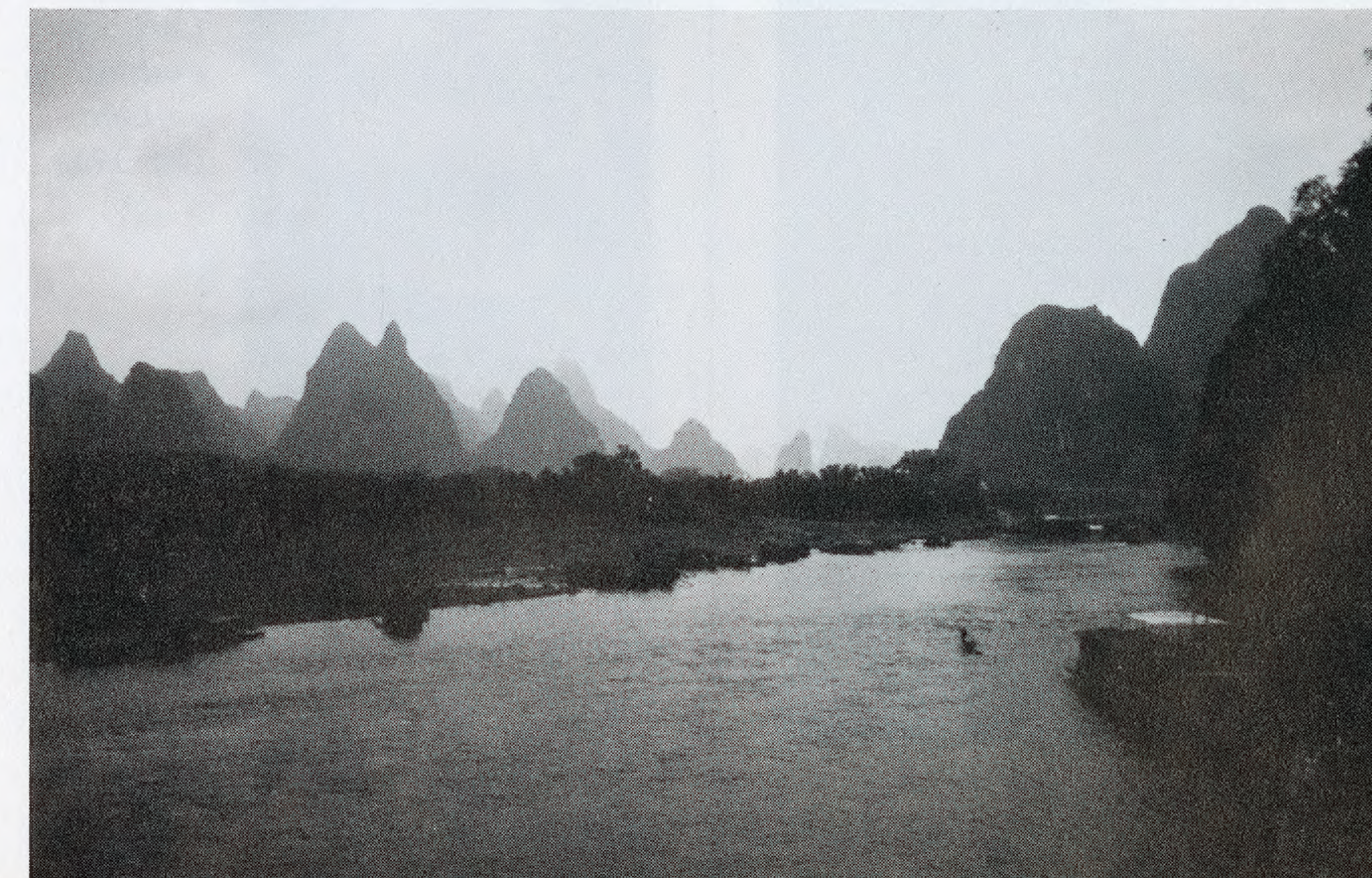
**May 14** "Probing the Universe with the Hubble Space Telescope"

All programs begin at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$2.00 and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. As tickets sell quickly, send a *self-addressed, stamped envelope* to "Universe," Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, SF, CA 94118. Please specify the date and the number of tickets requested. For more information, call 750-7129.

### Lecture

## "The Spectacular Karst Landscapes of China"

Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 pm



The intriguing karst landscapes of China.

China's unique karst topography is formed in irregular limestone areas where there are sinks, underground streams and caves. Streams and rain erode the limestone, producing the isolated pinnacles and steep craggy hills that arise from the lush, green rice paddies throughout the countryside. The austere beauty and mystery of these strange landforms has greatly influenced Chinese artists and affected the lifestyle and social organization of Asian peoples for

thousands of years.

On February 19th, distinguished scholar, Mei-e Ren, Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Geography and Ocean Sciences at Nanjing University, will explore the formation of karst topography in a fascinating slide and lecture presentation. Tickets for this special lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Use the convenient order form below to order your tickets. For more information call 750-7128.

### Ticket Order Form

#### "Karst Landscapes of China"—February 19, 7:30 pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lecture only:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3 member tickets

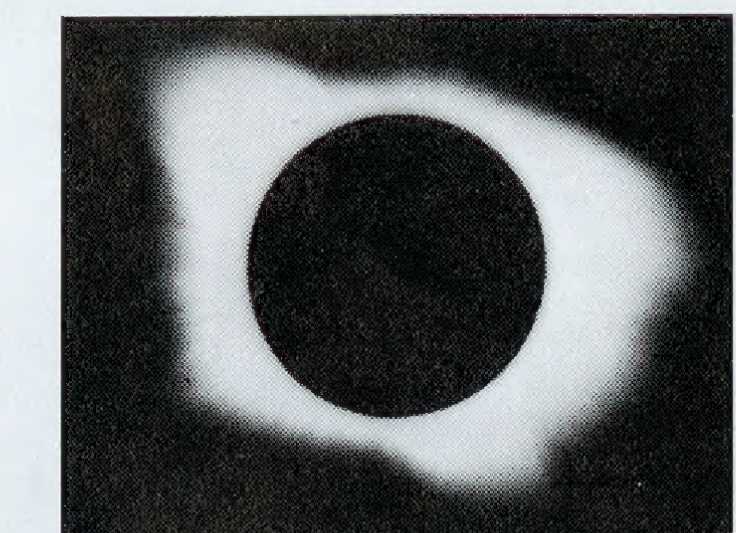
\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 non-member tickets

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### Sky Show

## "1991 Almanac"



The solar Corona of the 1952 eclipse.

Visit the Morrison Planetarium and take a look ahead at the year's most intriguing celestial events. On July 12, 1991 there will be a total eclipse of the Sun that can be seen from Hawaii to southern Mexico and all the way down to Panama. In the San Francisco area it will be seen as a partial (63%) eclipse. Also in 1991 the Perseid and Geminid meteor showers will have favorable viewing when the moon is new or in the first quarter phase. Morrison Planetarium previews these and other fascinating astronomical events in their new show, "1991 Almanac." For more information, call 750-7141.

January 2

## Free First Wednesday Night

Celebrate the opening of the exhibit, "Western Wildflowers Rediscovered: Watercolors by August Henry Kramer," with an evening of fun at the Academy on Free First Wednesday, January 2. Medieval and Renaissance music by the San Francisco Consort Recorder Quartet will soothe those winter blues in the "Water Lily Lounge." The Japanese art of flower arranging, Ikebana, will be demonstrated by Susumu and Kinsui Saiki. Academy botanist Tom Daniel will tell the wonderful tale of how the watercolors on exhibit came home to the Academy. Visit the Discovery Room for interactive exhibits from the world of nature. Create your own plant prints in a hands-on activity for kids. It's all happening from 5-8 pm on January 2. These special programs are brought to you through the Bernard Osher Foundation.



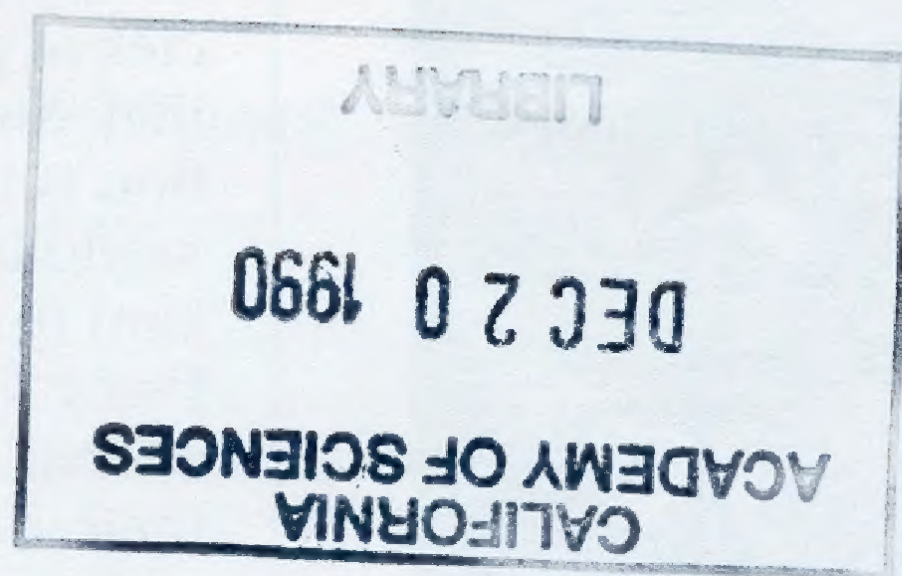
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*January 1991*

*Open daily 10 am to 5 pm*

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*Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, California 94118-4599*



*Library*

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## Calendar of Events

### January

- 2 First Wednesday Night, until 8:45 pm
- 6 "Yosemite 100" exhibit closes
- 9 Members' Meetings, "Galapagos," 2 & 7:30 pm
- 10 Members' Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 12 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 15 "Universe" lecture series, 7:30 pm
- 19 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 26 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
- 27 Young Audiences, 1 pm
- 29 Lecture, "Women in High Places," 7:30 pm

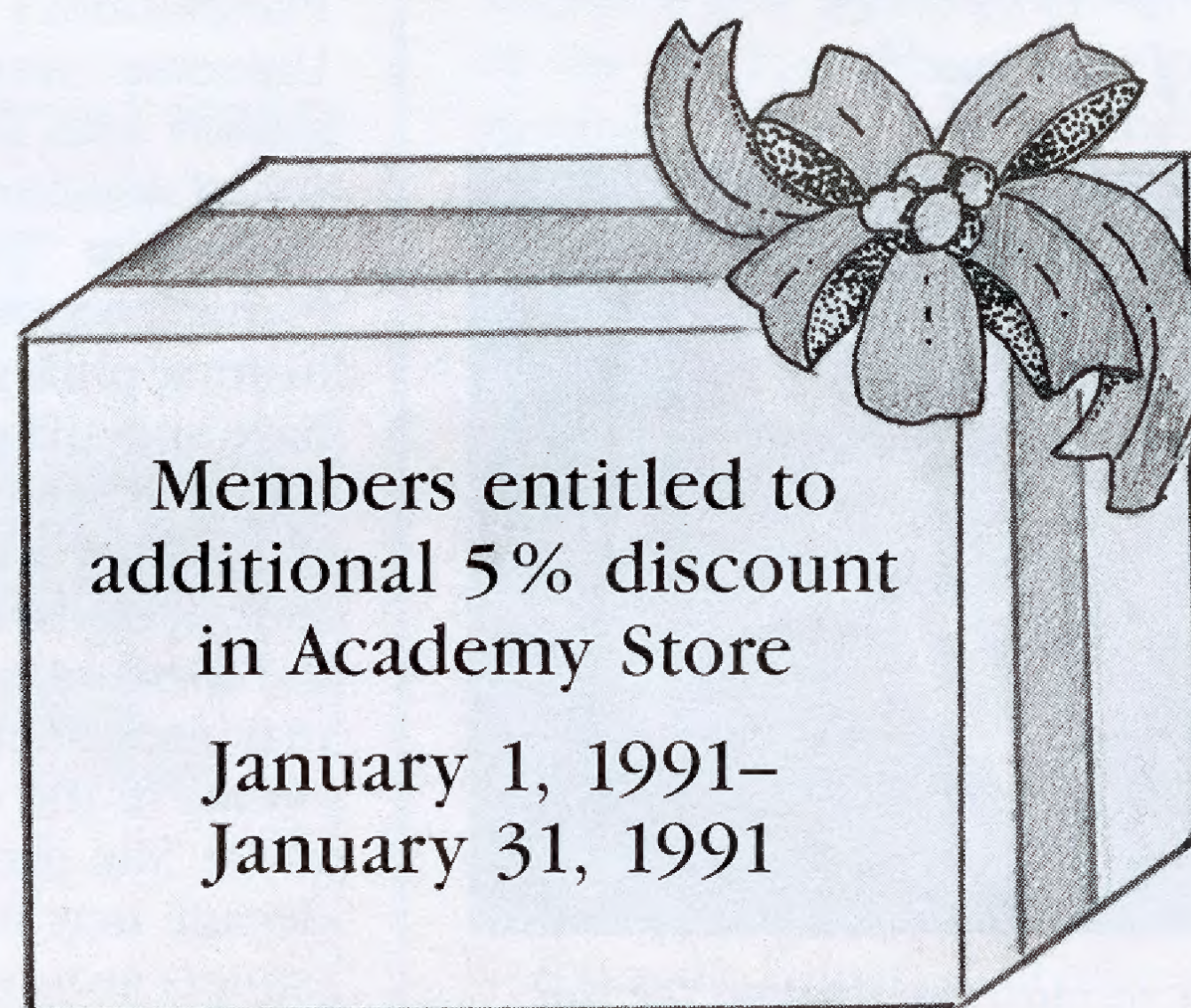
### February

- 12 "Universe" Lecture Series, 7:30 pm
- 19 Lecture, "Karst Landscapes," 7:30 pm
- 23 "Vanishing Desert" exhibit opens
- 24 "Western Wildflowers" exhibit closes

## Academy Store

New Year's Resolution:

1. I will come into the Academy Store from January 1, 1991-January 31, 1991 to spend my additional 5% discount coupon.



2. I will start my diet tomorrow!